

Save yourself from
making costly design mistakes
with this quick guide to the

TOP 5 DESIGN MISTAKES *and*

How YOU can avoid them!

Let's dive right in!



PAINTING

1

BUYING PAINT AND PRIMER IN ONE:

Let me explain here...many people see a can of paint that says Paint and Primer in one and think, "Great, I won't have to prime. Saves me time and money!" The truth is those paint and primer in one products aren't really a sealer. In most cases people are painting because the walls have not been painted in a LONG time OR they are covering up a darker colour with a lighter colour. Also, many people out there only paint one or two coats. The result is a finished product that does not look like the paint chip. The dried out walls have soaked up the paint and the result is a wall that looks pitted and not quite the colour you were expecting.

THE FIX:

ONLY use Paint and Primer in one when the walls were painted within the last 4-5 years (that way they are not too dry). I recommend using a separate wallboard primer (or other appropriate primer for the job) to SEAL the drywall and apply AT LEAST 2 coats of your top coat. Your finished job will be truer to your paint chip colour.





AREA RUGS \$\$\$

2

BUYING AN AREA RUG THAT IS TOO SMALL AND OF THE WRONG FIBERS

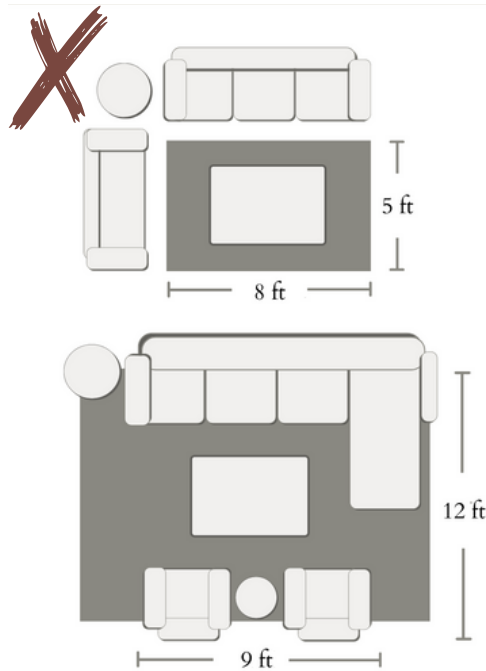
Most people buy rugs that are too small for the space. It is also important to choose a rug that is made out of the right fibers for the job. For example, viscose rugs are very sensitive to water and are not the most durable option for high traffic area rugs.

THE FIX:

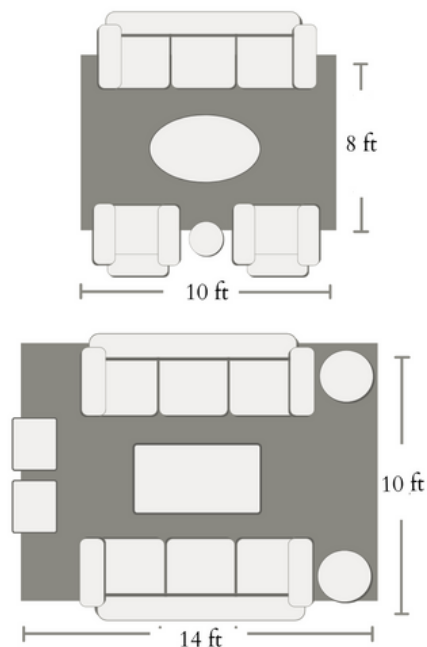
Use the attached visual to choose the correct rug size and make sure your rug is made out of durable long wearing fibers. Nylon and wool rugs are typically durable options.



Avoid this, rug is too small



Better, at the very least you want the front feet of your furniture sitting on the rug.



You'll notice that in these two options the space feels more grounded. You want to aim for all or most of the furniture sitting on the rug. Most rugs will require a gripper of sorts as well, so make sure you purchase this at the time of your rug purchase.

TILING DIRECTLY ON THE SUB-FLOOR

When you are tiling you need to have an uncoupling membrane and a waterproofing membrane (in wet areas) between the subfloor and the tile. These layers protect your tile from cracking due to the effects of surface movement and expansion.

Skipping this step will lead to broken tiles and in the case of wet areas like showers, that water will eventually cause rot and potentially structural damage. The couple hundred dollars saved by skipping this step can result in thousands of dollars in structural damage.

THE FIX:

Always use uncoupling membranes and waterproofing layers. There are many great products out there and in my experience Schluter offers a great product with really great How To videos and customer support.



DO NOT put tile directly on sub-floor.

Always use an uncoupling membrane. This photo shows a Schluter DITRA HEAT membrane.





SPEC'S \$\$\$

4

5

NOT READING THE PRODUCT SPECS

Okay, this one covers a world of sins! My big pet peeve when I am sourcing a product is reading the reviews and seeing that people have written something like, “It was bigger/smaller than I expected.”

I often hear clients say things like, “Yeah, that was a mistake... I ordered it online and thought it would be bigger or a different colour etc.”. Making a mistake here could cause aesthetic issues or more costly errors.

THE FIX:

ALWAYS read the fine print! Make sure you are clear on the sizes. Double check...is that in inches or cm? etc. Unless the manufacturer made an error you should never be surprised by the size. Make sure that the light fixture you are ordering has the glass shade you are looking for and not a fabric shade. READ reviews and read ALL the product specifications. Don't ever assume.



HARDWARE

HAVING ALL THE SAME CABINET HARDWARE

Okay, this one isn't really a “mistake”, but many people use the same pull for all their kitchen cabinets, drawers and doors.

THE FIX:



Use pulls AND knobs. I like to use knobs on doors and pulls on drawers. I will also mix up the length of the pulls on the drawers. Longer pulls on wider drawers.



Key take aways:

Always USE:

SUMMARY

1. **Separate primer and paint 2 coats to ensure best match to the paint chip.** ✓
2. **Right size area rug to ground the room.** ✓
3. **Uncoupling membrane when tiling to prevent expensive tile damage.** ✓
4. **Product spec guide to carefully read product size, weight etc.** ✓
5. **A mixture of cabinet hardware to ensure a curated designer look.** ✓

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